

5    WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for mitigating toe strike in a cockpit of an aircraft, comprising:  
providing an airbag module attached to an instrument console located in the cockpit of the aircraft;  
releasing an airbag from the airbag module after an ejection sequence begins;  
10    using the airbag to protect a pilot's lower limbs from striking the instrument console as the pilot begins ejecting.
  
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the airbag module is flush mounted on a bottom surface of the instrument console.
  
- 15    3. The method of claim 2 wherein the airbag is a balloon type airbag.
  
4. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of releasing an airbag includes releasing a balloon type airbag and at least one side curtain type airbag.
  
- 20    5. The method of claim 1 wherein the airbag module is surface mounted on a bottom surface of the instrument console.
  
6. The method of claim 5 wherein the airbag is a balloon type airbag.
  
- 25    7. The method of claim 1 wherein the airbag module is mounted on a rear surface of the instrument console and flush with a bottom surface of the instrument console.
  
8. The method of claim 7 wherein the step of releasing an airbag includes releasing a balloon type airbag and at least one side curtain type airbag.
  
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